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Name (Print/Type)	Susan G. Burt	Fax # (if faxed)	(703) 305-7718
Signature	<i>Susan G. Burt</i>	Date	April 28, 2003

**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of )  
 )  
 Mohamed S. M. Shakur, et al )  
 )  
 Application No. 09/973,393 )  
 )  
 Filed: October 9, 2001 )  
 )  
 MULTIPLE DOWNCOMER )  
 FRACTIONAL DISTILLATION )  
 TRAY AND PROCESS )

Attorney Docket No. 106290

Examiner: Charles S. Bushey

Group Art Unit: 1724

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**ELECTION AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of March 26, 2003, requiring an election, Applicants responds as follows:

**ELECTION**

Applicants elect to prosecute the Species A.

**AMENDMENTS**

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 10-11 of the specification which provides a brief description of Figure 2 as shown in the following section.

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PTO/SB/21 (01-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0351-0031


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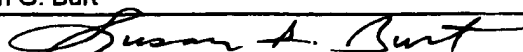
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/973,393	
	Filing Date	October 9, 2001	
	First Named Inventor	Mohamed S.M. Shakur	
	Art Unit	1724	
	Examiner Name	Charles S. Bushey	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	106290

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
Remarks <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Election and Preliminary Amendment</div>		

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual	David J. Piasecki Reg. No. 53,467
Signature	
Date	April 28, 2003

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Typed or printed	Susan G. Burt		
Signature		Date	April 28, 2003

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